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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia: revised draft resolution

Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1/

Affirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, specifically as they pertain to women migrant workers,

Noting the holding of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Violence Against Women Migrant Workers in Manila from 27 to 31 May 1996, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for hosting the meeting,

Taking note of resolution 1996/12 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities concerning, inter alia, women migrant workers,

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1/ Resolution 48/104.

Conscious of the great importance given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to groups that have been rendered vulnerable, including migrant workers, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them and the strengthening and more effective implementation of existing human rights instruments,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of sending States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to sending and receiving States from the employment of women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for accurate, objective and comprehensive information and data as a basis for the formulation of policy,

Concerned at the continuing reports of grave abuses and acts of violence committed against the persons of women migrant workers by certain employers in some host countries,

Encouraged by certain measures adopted by some receiving States to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Reiterating that acts of violence directed against women impair or nullify their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers; 2/

2. Determines to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

3. Encourages Member States to enact and/or reinforce penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs done to women and girls who are subjected to any form of violence, whether in the home, the workplace, the community or society;

4. Also encourages Member States to adopt and/or implement and periodically to review and analyse legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders, and to take measures to ensure the protection of women subjected to violence and their access to just and effective remedies, including compensation, indemnification and healing of victims, and measures for the rehabilitation of perpetrators;

2/ A/51/325.

5. Invites Member States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving countries, to consider adopting appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

6. Reiterates the need for States concerned, specifically the sending and receiving States of women migrant workers, to conduct regular consultations for the purpose of identifying problem areas in promoting and protecting the rights of women migrant workers and ensuring health, legal and social services for them, adopting specific measures to address those problems, setting up, as necessary, linguistically and culturally accessible services and mechanisms to implement those measures and, in general, creating conditions that foster greater harmony and tolerance between women migrant workers and the rest of the society in which they reside;

7. Encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 3/ as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926; 4/

8. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the Special Rapporteur, as well as all relevant bodies and programmes in the United Nations system, when addressing the issue of violence against women, to give particular attention to the issue of violence perpetrated against women migrant workers;

9. Invites Member States, as well as relevant international organizations, to provide their views and comments to the Secretary-General on the issue of indicators as a basis for addressing the situation of women migrant workers, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

10. Also invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination, within its mandate, to examine how to improve coordination within the United Nations system on the question of violence against women migrant workers;

11. Invites attention to the statement of the Secretary-General contained in his report that a message was sent by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women; 5/

12. Invites the regional commissions and the regional offices of the International Labour Organization to examine ways and means, within their mandates, of dealing with concerns pertaining to women migrant workers;

3/ Resolution 45/158, annex.

4/ See Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XIV.1 (vol. I, Part I)).

5/ A/51/325, annex, para. 7.

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the reports received from all organizations and bodies in the United Nations system, Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other concerned bodies, with due regard for possible measures to improve reporting procedure.